

# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2015



# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## MISSION, VISION, VALUES, CORE VALUES

### **Our Mission**

Assist the public in the protection of life and property by minimizing the impact of fire, medical emergencies, and potential disasters or uncontrolled events.

### **Our Vision**

A protected, prepared and healthy community

### **Our Values**

Bellevue Fire embraces the City of Bellevue's Core Values and is committed to upholding and embodying them in our policies, culture and daily actions.

### **City of Bellevue Core Values**

Exceptional Public Service, Stewardship, Commitment to Employees, Integrity, Innovation



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



*Fire Chief Mark Risen*

As we look back at 2015 through the lens of this annual report, it seems that the theme of change is woven throughout. We continued to experience significant retirements, leadership changes at all levels of the organization and new members just starting out. New apparatus, increasing call volumes, changing response policies and maintaining service levels during a period of incredible growth for the city that we protect were all part of the conversation in 2015.

As the City changes, so does the world around it. We again saw numerous active shooter events covered on the media in 2015. Working to ensure we are prepared for the unthinkable was an added preoccupation for us and found us working closely with our Police Department to ensure any response will be handled in the most professional manner possible.

Amidst all of this change, the one constant that we can always rely on is the men and women of the Bellevue Fire Department to deliver the most professional and customer oriented service one could possibly ask for. Regardless of their place within the organization, administrative or operational, I could not be more proud of the work that they do on a daily basis.

In appreciation of their commitment to excellence, I'd like to present our 2015 Annual Report.



# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## CLASS 2 RATING RETAINED



The Bellevue Fire Department is proud to announce that we have retained a Class 2 rating. Of the 411 fire departments within Washington State, only four fire departments; Bellevue, Federal Way, Olympia and Seattle have a Class 2 rating. Currently no Washington state agencies hold a Class 1 rating.

The Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) periodically evaluates every community in the state of Washington and assigns a numerical classification of 1 through 10, with 1 indicating exemplary fire protection capabilities while 10 indicates insufficient capabilities. The rating awarded to an agency can impact the fire insurance premiums of the residents and businesses served by those departments.

In addition, five of the six contract cities that the City of Bellevue provides service for also saw an improvement in their ratings from a Class 3 to a Class 2. This rating improvement will impact Medina, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point and Newcastle. Beaux Arts remained a Class 3.

This is a great achievement for the Bellevue Fire Department and was a team effort from our partners within the City of Bellevue and outside supporting agencies. This rating would not have been possible without the outstanding support of the City of Bellevue Water Utility and Coal Creek Water District, City of Bellevue Development Services Department, City of Bellevue Civic Services Fleet personnel and NORCOM our dispatching agency. In addition, this would not have been possible without the support and commitment of our City Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## 2015 DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

- Personnel – 232 (199 suppression/EMS personnel)
- Total incidents – 18,213 (79.9% medical, 17.6% suppression/fires)
- Patient transports – 7,875
- Cardiac arrest save rate – 58.3 % (top 1% in the world)
- Fires confined to room of origin – 90.2% (top 2% of fire departments in the nation)
- Emergency response time – 5:31 min/sec average (time from 911 call to first arriving fire apparatus on scene)
- Fire and life safety inspections – 7,115
- Accreditation – Accredited by the CFAI (Commission of Fire Accreditation International) and most recently, 2013 -2018. (Less than 1% of fire departments are accredited nationally)



# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- Added one firefighter per day to improve fire protection at Fire Station 7 and to the Woodridge community as a result of a budget decision made by City Council
- 20 staff promotions within the organization, including a new Fire Chief and Deputy Chief; 28 new hires were added to the department ranks as it responds to a rapid pace of staff retirements
- Placed in service (2) new ladder trucks at Station 3 and 7, (1) new fire engine at Station 1, (4) new medic units and (3) new aid cars are in the process of delivery
- Department staff assisted other agencies across the state in the worst wildland fire year mobilization in its history with an estimated reimbursement to Bellevue Fire of \$450,000
- Expansion of the East Metro Training Group to include Shoreline Fire, Bothell Fire and Woodinville Fire & Life Safety
- Successful year of events celebrating the department's 50 year anniversary including a banquet at the Meydenbauer Center, memory book, 5K run and a benefit golf tournament
- Development of a recruitment team to participate in area hiring events and assist with diversity recruiting
- Development of a public education & outreach team to include staff from the Office of Emergency Management for an all hazards focus for community engagement
- Four million square feet of new construction has been permitted in 2015 and 8,600 hours of plan review and construction services for new construction projects

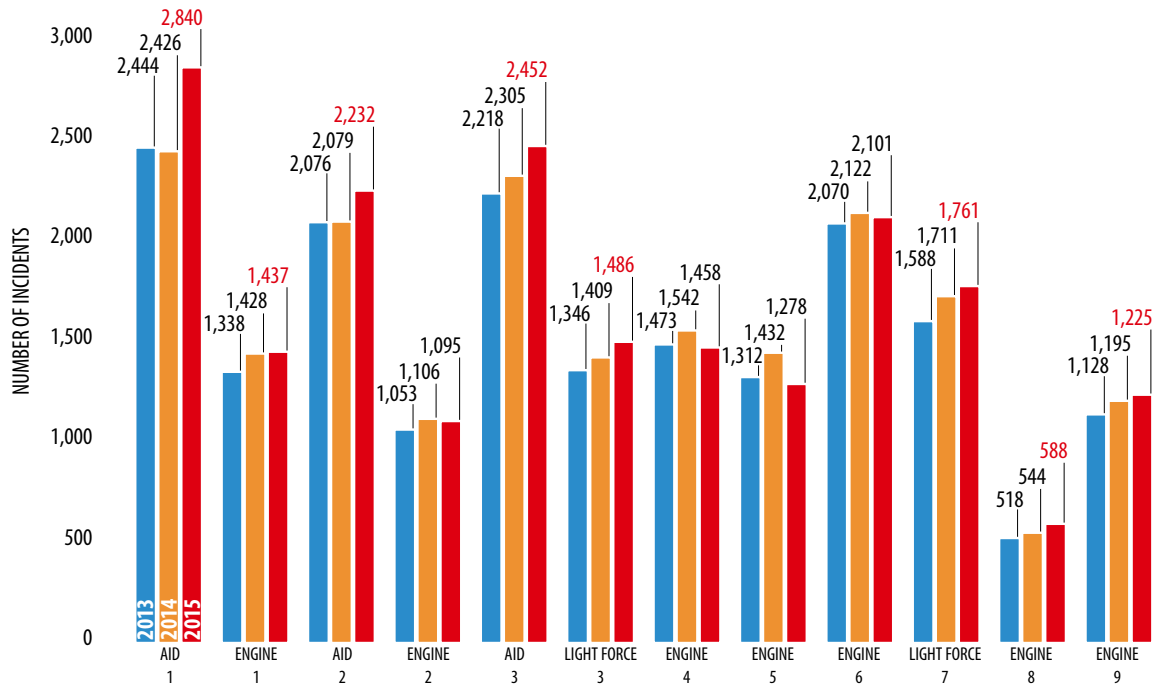


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## INCIDENT COMPARISONS

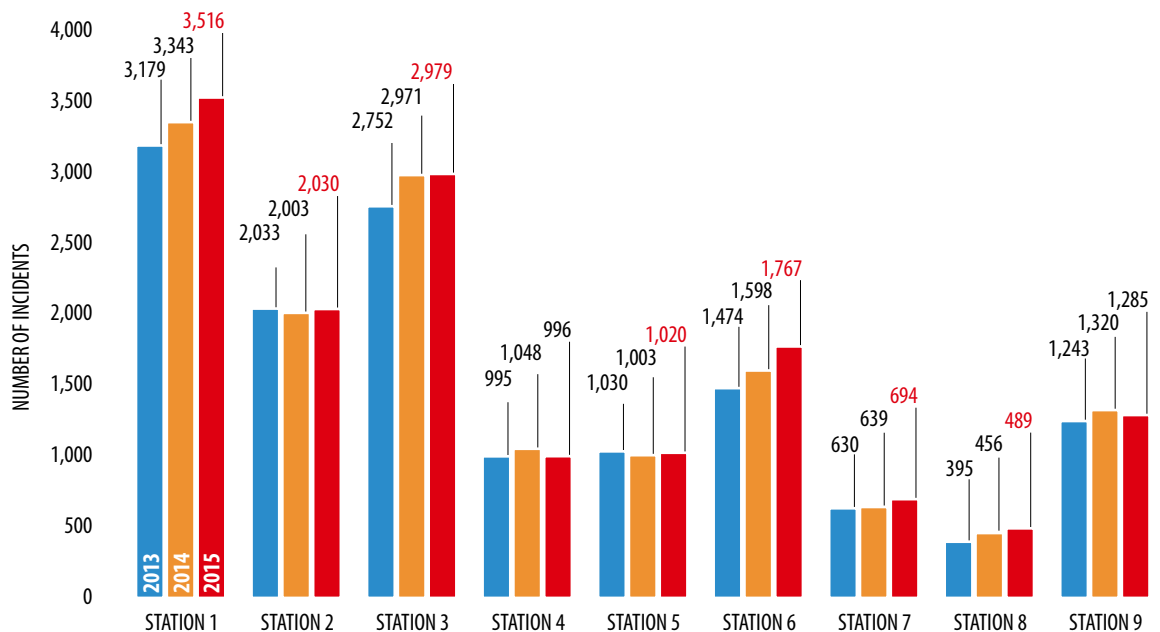
### ANNUAL CALLS FOR SERVICE BY UNITS

All Calls, Bellevue & Contract Cities Only



### INCIDENT COUNT BY STATION GEOGRAPHIC AREA

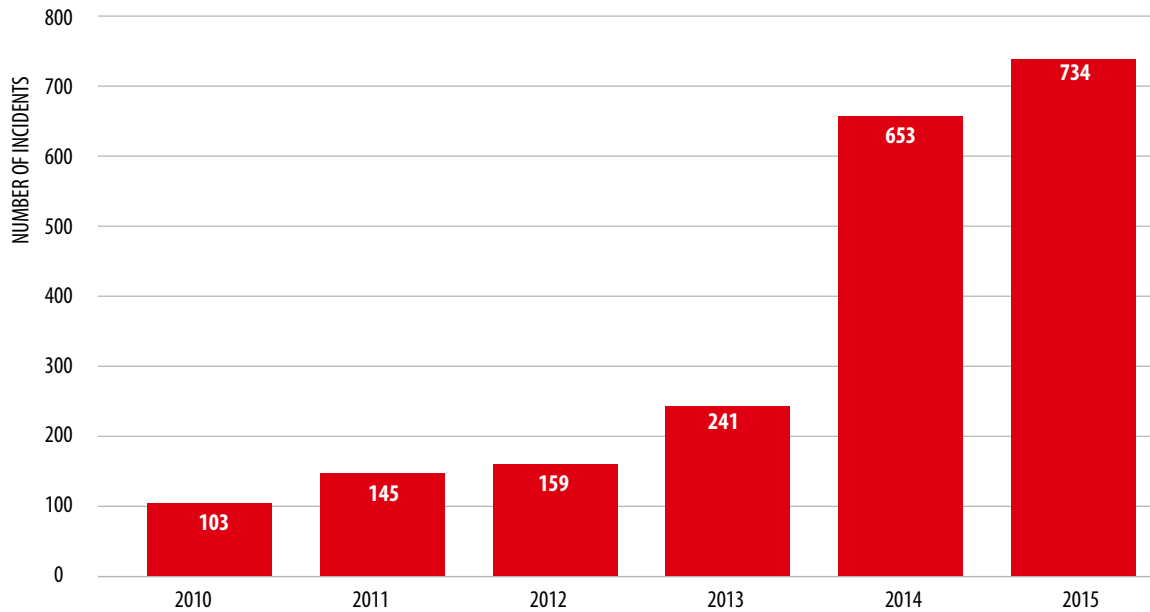
All Calls, Bellevue & Contract Cities Only



# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

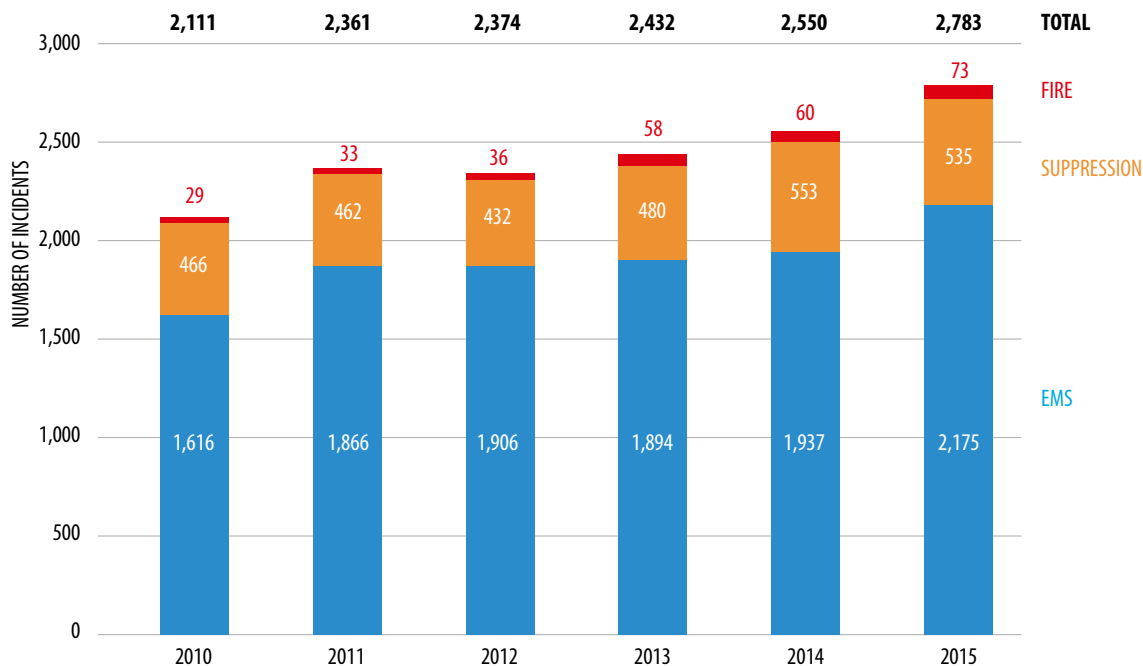
## ANNUAL HIGHRISE AND CBD INCIDENTS

### ANNUAL HIGHRISE INCIDENTS



Between 2010 and 2015 incident volume in highrises has dramatically increased by 631 emergency responses or 710%.

### ANNUAL CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT INCIDENTS



The Central Business District is the area between 100th Ave NE and 116th Ave NE & Main St and NE 15th St. Between 2010 and 2015 incident volume in the CBD has increased by 672 emergency responses or 24%.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## BUREAU OF OPERATIONS



*Deputy Chief, Bureau of Operations Mark Moulton*

The Bureau of Operations supports the 199 suppression/EMS line personnel that in 2015 responded to 18,213 incidents, confined fires to room of origin over 90% of the time, transported nearly 8,000 patients and achieved a cardiac arrest save rate of nearly 60%. The cities we protect continue to grow and develop, in particular the downtown Bellevue core. Our charge moving forward will be to maintain and wherever possible improve service to an ever denser, taller, more populated service area, to effectively adapt to such challenges as the East Link light rail project and to do so safely, nimbly and cost effectively. It's a charge we're eager to address. These dedicated men and women are tasked with maintaining

optimum operational readiness in a wide variety of public safety disciplines to include:

- Fire suppression
- Emergency medical services (basic and advanced life support)
- Technical rescue (structural collapse, confined space, trench, vehicle extrication, surface water rescue, high angle, etc.)
- Hazardous materials incident response
- Fire prevention (company level inspections)
- Fire education (station tours, school programs, etc.)
- Station, apparatus and equipment maintenance
- Miscellaneous support activities (commercial occupancy pre-fire planning, map updates, hydrant location and condition verification, etc.)



# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION



*Battalion Commander, EMS Division Andy Adolfson (not pictured) Captain Blaine Singleton, Lieutenant Mark Weldon*

2015 has been a busy year in the Emergency Medical Services Division. This year the Fire Department has answered over 18,000 calls for help. Of these calls the vast majority, 79.9%, are medically related. We respond to calls as minor as finger lacerations all the way up to cardiac arrests and heavy rescues. Every member of the Fire Department who works on a fire apparatus is certified as either an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Paramedic; this gives us 172 EMTs and 37 Paramedics on our staff.

### **Response areas for ALS and BLS**

The Fire Department's Basic Life Support (BLS) service area covers the cities of Bellevue, Newcastle, Medina, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point and Beaux Arts. This constitutes about 43 square miles and a population of about 153,000 at night which balloons to about 243,000 during the day due to jobs and attractions in the cities.

Our Medic One Program contracts to King County Emergency Medical Services to cover a swath of area that is centered on the I-90 corridor from the floating bridge up to Snoqualmie Pass. For this reason our Advanced Life Support area approaches 370 square miles with a population of about 281,000. Our Medic One Units responded to 2,134 calls outside the BFD service area in 2015.

A big part of the EMS Division's work is to assure our EMTs and Paramedics are receiving excellent training and maintaining their skills. In 2015 there were 4,806 EMS training hours logged by the EMTs for an average of 27.8 hours per individual. The Paramedics logged a total of 2,168.91 hours with an average of 63.8 hours per medic. We also were able to recertify all of our EMTs and medics who were required to do so. 95 EMTs and 16 paramedics renewed their State credentials by meeting their training requirements, passing examinations and proving their skills competencies.

### **CARES**



The Bellevue Fire Department is pleased to have formed a very innovative response team three years ago, our CARES program. This is a service that has been needed for years but has not been conceptualized until about five years ago. Both the Fire and Police Departments frequently respond to incidents where their help is needed but there are often additional needs that they recognize but have no way to rectify. The fall patient who calls frequently who would benefit from grab bars or alterations to their home

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## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

allowing the prevention of falls and more independent living, the homeless person who needs a gateway to housing, substance abuse programs or job opportunities, the elderly woman who tries tenaciously to care for her ailing husband at home, but is at her wit's end; these are just a few of the examples where both the Fire or Police can notify the CARES Team for intervention. In 2015 the BFD took a big step and changed our CARES Program from a de facto trial to a full-fledged service by making the CARES Program Manager's position a City funded position as opposed to a tenuous job that obtained its operating costs from grants and donations.

### Stryker stretchers



To further the safety and injury prevention to our staff we are moving to the Stryker Power Cots and Power Load systems. The new Power Cots have wheels and undercarriage that raise and lower with the touch of a button, completely unassisted. The Power Load system takes all of the lifting and loading away from the crew.

The stretcher is wheeled to the back of the apparatus and moved into position so that the load system can engage the stretcher. Once this occurs a crew member touches a button and the load system takes the weight of the stretcher, retracts the undercarriage and moves the stretcher into the patient compartment. This is a great example of a "High Performance Organization" as the idea came from the firefighters at Station 1.

### Body armor

On the recommendation of our staff we decided to go with a system of hard armor which offers many advantages. These include the ability to stop more powerful hand gun rounds, protection against edged weapons, such as knives and picks, and a much longer service life. What really clinched the deal was the fact that the new system is about the same cost as the soft armor and we do not need to get specialized sizes for our larger and smaller members. This project was a blend of High Performance Organization (listening to the people who knew, not the people with rank) and innovation (employing a new system that offers much greater protection at an equivalent cost.)



# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

### Police/Fire Training



As part of an effort to prepare for joint operations our crews have been training with the Bellevue Police and several other Law Enforcement (LE) and EMS agencies. The majority of this training has focused on Active Shooter Incidents and how to more quickly insert firefighters into 'Warm Zones' to provide patient care by hemorrhage control and rapid removal. In addition

there has been an increased awareness for response to Excited Delirium (ExD) patients and how our coordinated efforts can lead to a safer control and treatment of these individuals. Both of these trainings are hoping to be ongoing as well as additional training concerning other LE/EMS interactions.

### iPhones and iPads



The paramedic units have carried iPhones for two years but this year we really started to leverage the technology these phones offer. We started by adding several apps that offer medical information, translation assistance, mapping and other useful tools. Later in the year we realized that by utilizing the 'hotspot' capabilities of these devices we could solve a problem we have had for several years; namely the transmission of 12 lead ECGs from the field. For years we have had issues with very tenuous data connections when away from quarters that required us to be

very close to the apparatus and even then making a connection was difficult. Our medics are frequently sending ECGs to the receiving hospital so that they can prepare the catheterization team for a quick clearing of an artery. Not being able to successfully send these ECGs led to additional death of heart tissue and poorer patient outcomes. Using the iPhones for the data transmission has almost completely eliminated this issue and allows the medics to send the ECG from the inside of the patient's bedroom or the 40th floor of an office building instead of having to be within the 30 foot 'wifi bubble' of the apparatus.



The Fire Department has also started using iPads for mapping, prefire plans, protocol applications and other useful tools. Additionally both the iPhones and iPads utilize the Active 911 alerting and routing software effectively backing up our pagers and station tones.

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## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

### Back country gear and survival skills



For years our paramedics have had to hike up trails to care for patients in the rain, snow and beating sun wearing gear that is meant for streets, homes, offices and elevators. This year we finally equipped our medics with the proper gear for working in the woods. This includes hiking boots, layered jackets and pants, and proper head and hand gear. We have already seen benefits from the new apparel and anticipate it cutting down on crew fatigue and injuries when working in the wilderness.

## BUREAU OF SUPPORT SERVICES



*Interim Deputy Chief, Bureau of Support Services Marty LaFave*

The Bureau of Support Services encompasses three divisions: Fire Prevention/Investigation, Training, and Supply and Maintenance. While Training and Fire Prevention duties are front and center to the department's mission, the Supply and Maintenance Division has the behind-the-scene duties that support daily operations. This includes responsibilities for design, purchase and maintenance of the fire fleet and facilities as well as the purchase and maintenance of supplies, tools, protective equipment and Uniforms.



*Battalion Commander, Training Division Steve Thomas (not pictured)  
Captain Keith Allen,  
Lieutenant Doug Halbert*

## TRAINING DIVISION

- Conducted (2) Recruit Academies 2015 at Bellevue Training Center for 41 recruits
- Conducted Battalion Chief, Captain and Firefighter/Engineer promotional examinations
- Trained crews and implemented FireTrex RMS
- Provided refresher training for all Fire Blast prop operators
- Live Fire Training for Redmond Medics and recruits at Bellevue Training Center

# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## TRAINING DIVISION

- Conducted several PIAs including the Ford fire and Eastgate natural gas line fracture
- Developed/facilitated training for Fire/EMS Safety Week
- Conducted Annual Fitness Evaluations for A Platoon
- Conducted semi-annual PPE inspections
- Developed and conducted lateral entry firefighter recruitment and examination process
- Developed and instructed highrise multi company drills at the Bellevue Training Center
- Hosted and fully participated in IAFF Fire Ops 101
- Upgraded curriculum for drivers program
- Developed SOP for training during extreme weather
- Coordinated facility upgrades including tower and drill ground repairs
- The Best Practices document was updated for 2016 and approved by the EMTG Policy Board
- 34,637.79 hours of fire related training was conducted, averaging out to approximately 173 hours/member
- Hosted the following training at the Bellevue Training Center:
  - a. Tactics Training
  - b. Monthly HOT drills
  - c. EVIP training
  - d. Command Post Training for Chief Officers
  - e. New Apparatus Aerial Ladder/Truck Training
  - f. 7 Officer Development Academy classes

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## TRAINING DIVISION

### FIRE OPS 101



On August 3rd, legislators and elected officials from across the country and our region spent a day “bunked up” and feeling the heat! We truly appreciated everyone’s focus and hard work. It was an honor to share our profession with those making policy and decisions effecting our daily operations.

# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION



*Fire Marshall Ken Carlson*

### Hot & Dry

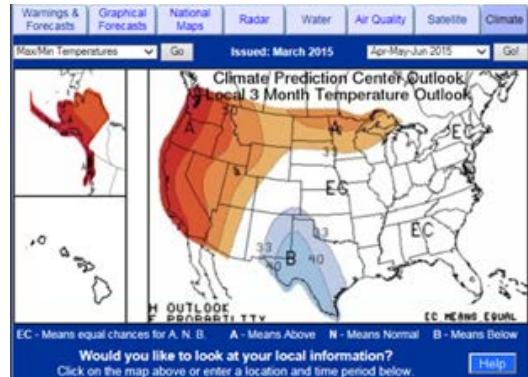
In March we had eight brush fires on the west side of the Cascades, an early indicator that this could be a challenging year for fire departments in the Puget Sound area.

We began working on a fireworks outreach campaign that ultimately resulted in an article in "It's Your City", inserts into every utility bill, public service announcements,

banners at every fire stations, yard signs and electronic message boards at every Bellevue school that had one in addition to several portable electronic



message boards that were strategically placed around the city. On the 4th of July and extending to the early morning hours of July 5th, Fire Prevention Officers patrolled the City with Bellevue Police officers responding to complaints and issuing citations.



By all accounts our efforts were very successful as there were significantly less fireworks in use. Case in point is this comment from a resident of Tamara Hills "This was the first time in the 16 years that I've owned my home that my neighborhood was quiet on the 4th. My dogs

thank you and I thank you for your efforts. I will try to remember to thank the Fire Marshall's office as well. If I don't, please extend my gratitude when you can. I did not think that this was possible."

Our Operations Bureau added extra staffing for the 4th of July in anticipation of higher call volumes. Bellevue had one fire on July 4th (a minor grass fire), neighboring cities and unincorporated areas of King on the other hand found their fire resources overtaxed and as a result Bellevue Fire had units assisting them. Following the 4th of July, the hot dry conditions persisted and we launched another outreach effort that included television interviews, public service announcements, use of electronic message boards, speaking engagements at community events and postings on the city's website. The community paid attention to the message and we made it through the dry season without any fires related to the dry conditions.

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## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

### Notable Fires

The Bellevue Fire Department investigates every fire in order to determine where (origin) and how (cause) it started. The information gleaned from investigating the origin and cause is then utilized to focus our fire prevention efforts where they will yield the most impact.

Most of the fires are investigated by firefighters but those meeting certain criteria (injury, death, suspicious in nature or exceeding a specified dollar loss) are investigated by a Fire Investigator working in the Fire Prevention Division.

### January 20, 2015

An elderly resident attempted to extinguish a fire that occurred when papers reportedly fell on the stove top while she was cooking and ignited. She attempted to extinguish the fire but was injured while attempting extinguishment. She died less than a month later from her injuries.

### March 31, 2015

Bellevue Fire responded to an automatic fire alarm reporting water flowing from the fire sprinkler system. Firefighters found water on the 5th floor and found the source on the 6th floor after opening a unit door. They discovered a small amount of smoke from a small fire that activated a single fire sprinkler. The fire appeared to have been intentionally set to conceal a homicide.

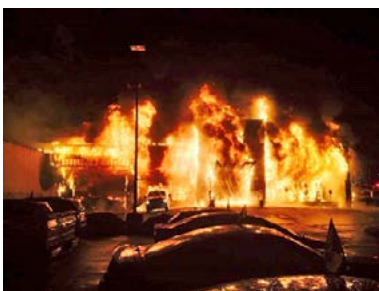
### April 13, 2015



A resident of this single family home investigated the source of the smell of smoke and discovered that the exterior deck was fully engulfed in flame. Investigators determined that the most probable cause was a barbeque that had been in use less than two hours before.

One of the residents was asleep at the time and had to be awoken as the home had no working smoke detectors.

### April 25, 2015



In the early morning hours a Bellevue Police Officer witnessed fire extending from an automobile dealership in downtown Bellevue. It would ultimately take several days to fully extinguish the fire with the assistance of units from Bellevue, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Eastside Fire and Rescue, and Redmond Fire Departments.

The building was constructed in 1971 and did not have a fire alarm or fire sprinkler system.

A team of fire investigators worked for 5 consecutive days to determine the origin and

# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

cause of the fire. They determined that the fire originated in the Southwest corner of the service bay. A gas radiant heater with a ruptured heating element, light fixtures and electrical conductors were found in the area of origin. The fire cause was unable to be determined.

To date, this is the biggest fire loss in the Bellevue Fire Department history.

### **June 18, 2015**

Two workers were in the process of brazing a copper water line in a ditch when a fire erupted. Both workers suffered significant burn injuries and were transported to area hospitals.

The source of the fire was found to be a natural gas line located in the same ditch that appeared to have a localized stress failure.

The heat generated from the fire caused the adjacent windows to fail and subsequently led to several heads from the fire sprinkler system to activate due to radiant heat exposure.



### **September 27, 2015**

Bellevue Fire responded to a reported attic fire in the early morning hours. The occupants of the single family residence reported having a fire in the fire place earlier in the evening.

Investigators concluded that the fire originated within the fireplace and extended into the wall cavity above and to the sides of the fireplace through conduction and convection heat transfer.



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## SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION

### Apparatus

- Delivery and upfitting of two custom tillered aerial apparatus
- Deliver and upfitting of one Pierce Pumper (Engine 1)
- Delivery and upfitting of four Terrastar Medic Units



*Fire crews partaking in the ceremonial "push-in" of the new Medic Units and Ladder Trucks*

### Facilities

- Remodel apparatus bay and ventilation system, Station 7
- Remodel kitchen, Station 9
- Upgrade/replace HVAC, Station 8 & 9
- Exterior lighting upgrades, Station 3
- Implemented "Fix-it" reporting system with Civic Services
- Purchased bunker dryers for all stations
- Purchased extra bunker gear for 70 personnel

### Personnel

- Retired Facilities Operations Specialist Wayne Bergeron
- Conducted search for new Operations Specialist. Hired Carter Dillon
- Selected Tom Dixon as the department's SCBA Specialist

### Other

- Distributed new 50-year Badges
- Converted 1500 Prefires from Canvas to Adobe Illustrator
- Distributed I-Pads to all front-line apparatus



# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIVISION



*Public Information Officer  
Lieutenant Ryan Armstrong  
(not pictured) Community  
Risk Reduction Specialist/  
Educator Heather Wong*

### Annual Open House

There were approximately 2,000+ attendees and 150+ children entered the "Ride to School on a Fire Engine" contest at this year's open house on Saturday, October 3rd.

National Fire Prevention week is observed in the United States and Canada, during the week (from Sunday to Saturday) in which October 9 falls. The first Presidential proclamation of Fire Prevention Week was made in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire (1911).

In Bellevue and throughout the United States, cooking, specifically unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires. During the open house cooking demonstrations were held at most of the fire stations providing a very teachable moment throughout the day on what to do, and what not to do.

Grays Harbor Fire District #5 graciously loaned us their fire safety trailer. The trailer provides the ability to simulate a smoke filled environment, discuss the need for families to have an evacuation plan, practice crawling out of a bedroom window and talk about the importance of smoke detectors in the home.

Staff from every division in the department worked to pull this event off. Our citizens and customers were able to explore our stations, talk to our staff and have some fun.

The Public Education and Outreach Division began tracking in July of 2015 performance measures on educational events, community events and social media engagements. We are hoping that these numbers will at least double in 2016.



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## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIVISION

### Methods of Outreach

EDUCATION	
32 Classes taught	1,494 attendees
COMMUNITY EVENTS	
58 Community Events	23,970 attendees
SOCIAL MEDIA	
119 Facebook posts	28,428 responses
136 Twitter tweets	13,497 responses



It was a successful year of events celebrating the department's 50 year anniversary including a banquet at the Meydenbauer Center, 5K run, benefit golf tournament and the creation of a department yearbook.

# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Division of Emergency Management has gone through some significant changes over the past year. During the last half of 2015, we began focusing our efforts on ensuring that City of Bellevue staff is better prepared to respond to incidents and events that could have an adverse effect on the City. To help support this effort, we have made three strategic hires, all of which have Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experience. OEM also began engaging COB departments by developing and delivering customized exercises that let departments explore internal strengths and weaknesses as well as build relationships. As we move into 2016, we look forward to continuing our trend to build response capabilities through increased plans, trainings, and exercises.

### Administration

- Development of Bellevue emergency management code changes with Council approval
- Advocated for, got Council approval, and coordinated City signing of Intergovernmental agreements, including the King County (RCF) Regional Coordination Framework for Disasters and Planned Events; and the Washington State Emergency Management Assistance EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Program) and PNEMA (Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement)
- Researched an EOC electronic incident management system for the EOC that is planned for 2016 purchase and implementation
- Built relationships with partnering organizations including:
  - Bellevue College
  - Bellevue School District
  - King County
  - Neighboring Jurisdictions
  - Overlake Hospital
  - Private industry

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Training and Exercise

During 2015 we have had the opportunity to conduct several formal exercises for City of Bellevue staff. These included:

- Parks department along with other City of Bellevue departments and zone 1 representatives conducted a 3 hour interactive table-top based on an earthquake striking the Bellevue area.
- In September, we were able to coordinate with Seattle King County Public Health for an in-house table-top on Ebola. This exercise was important as it provided us the opportunity to collaborate with outside agencies we normally don't have the opportunity to.
- On December 10th we participated in a FEMA based active shooter exercise. We participated virtually through our interactive video system. We have received a very positive impact not only internally from operational departments but also from Bellevue School Dist. & Bellevue College.

### Outreach

NEWSLETTERS	
12 sent	1,320 people reached
SOCIAL MEDIA	
156 Facebook posts	2,242 responses
260 Twitter tweets	1,320 responses

- Delegated preparedness presentations to Citizen Corps Council members (Block Captain Summits, Earthquake Preparedness Seminars)
- Initiated monthly meetings with Citizen Corps Council members
- Installed new radio officers for the first time in six years
- Distributed remaining 500+ CERT kits to other jurisdictions
- Founded the Eastside CERT cooperative
- Built stronger relationships with:
  - Other Eastside Cities
  - Bellevue College
  - Crime Prevention
  - Puget Sound Energy
- Late November/December met with at EADS (Elderly and Adult Day Services), where we discussed Fire Safety and Individual Emergency Preparedness

# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Presentation to AAA on covering individual emergency preparedness, what we do at this office, what hazards affect us in the area, and what items should go into an emergency kit as well as pet care in disasters
- Number of active Volunteers: 63
- Volunteer Hours: 805
- Volunteer Hours Translated to Labor Rate: \$18,571.35

### Grants

- Establishment of Unified Command best practices with regional input from Snohomish County, Seattle and Kent
- Participation in the process to establish new alert and warning system ("code red") for King County which is set to deploy in the 1st quarter 2016
- Interdepartmental IAP development for the July 4th Downtown Park event
- TTs including Pub Health Ebola, Parks EQ scenario
- Hiring of new staff and their roles/responsibilities
- UASI 2013: Completed grant of \$352,218 which included investments in community outreach, vulnerable populations planning, contract administration and regional planning, bomb squad equipment and necessary work on the city's public safety command vehicle (new computers/monitors, electrical system upgrades and repairs, and the replacement of the internet/data system)



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



*Fiscal Manager Stacie  
Martyn*

The department is at a time of great change. The City is growing, workloads are increasing and so is turnover in the department. In 2015, 21 department members left the organization via retirement and to seek out other opportunities. As a result of the turnover, 20 people were promoted to higher ranks in the organization. Eight new firefighters through our traditional academy process and 13 others through the lateral process. The workload involved in all of this was incredible, the shorter lateral academy reduced training costs and allowed the department to enter 2016 nearly fully staffed.

In 2015, the Bellevue Fire Department exceeded its annual budget by 0.5% or approximately \$174,000. The department spent \$44.5 million against an annual budget of \$44.3 million. The overage was due to an increase in costs of \$380,000 for providing Advance Life Support (ALS) or paramedic services to Bellevue and neighboring communities. As a regional ALS provider the department is reimbursed 100% for the costs of this program. Excluding the ALS program, the department underspent their remaining General Fund operating budget by approximately \$200,000.

The largest expenditure category for the Fire Department is personnel costs (salary plus benefits) for a staff of 214 uniformed employees and 28 civilian employees. Personnel costs account for 76% of expenditures, or \$33.9 million in 2015. The second largest category of expenditures is Inter-fund Services, 15.7% or \$7.0 million. Inter-fund expenditures include such services as Fleet, Information Technology, Fire Hydrant Maintenance, and Risk Management. Supplies and services make-up the remaining 5.2%, or \$2.3 million of annual expenditures.

The primary focus of the department remains the provision of emergency services to the community. Approximately 91% of annual expenditures directly relate to the provision of these services. 4% of the department's budget is spent on Fire Prevention efforts. The remaining 5% is spent on education and outreach, city-wide emergency management services, and administration.

In 2015, Bellevue Fire collected \$17.0 million in operating revenues. This equates to 38% of the department's operating budget.

The department's largest source of revenue is on-going funding from the King County EMS property tax levy. The current levy was approved by voters in 2013 and expires in 2019. In addition to the \$8.6 million received for ALS services, the department also received \$2.4 million to partially fund Basic Life Support (BLS) programs.

Bellevue contracts with six municipalities to provide Fire Services to their communities. Bellevue Fire's extended service area includes the communities of Beaux Arts, Clyde

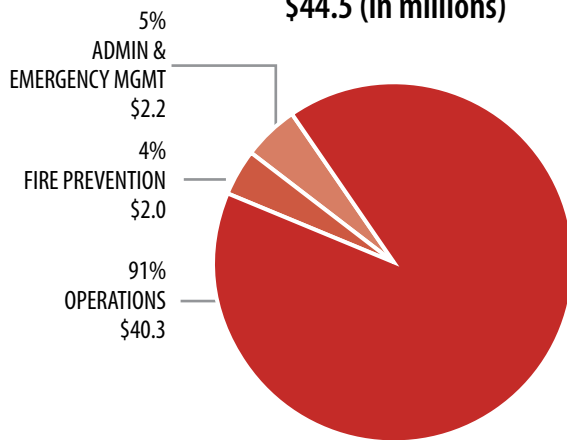
# BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

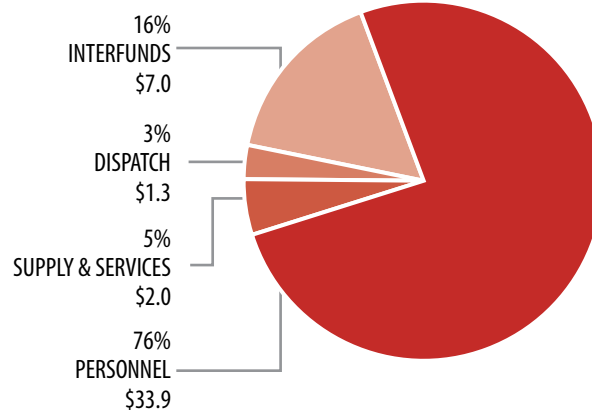
Hill, Medina, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point and Newcastle. By regionalizing services all communities have experienced higher quality of service for a reasonable cost. In total, the 2015 revenue from this source was \$3.2 million. Other sources of revenue include, Basic Life Support transport fees and new construction review and inspection fees.

During 2015, the State of Washington experienced the most severe wildfire season in memory. Fire departments across the state mobilized and sent resources to the east side of the state in record numbers. Administrative staff billed out a record \$450,000 in reimbursement for our apparatus and personnel costs associated with these incidents.

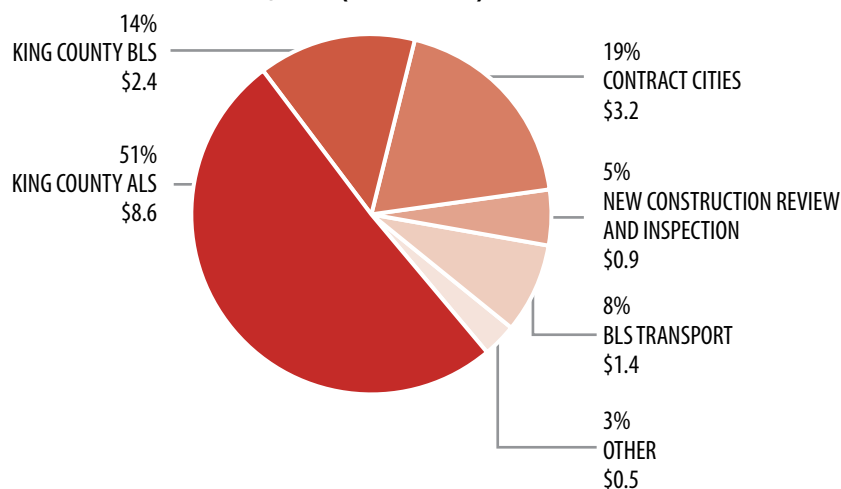
**EXPENDITURE BY FUNCTION**  
\$44.5 (in millions)



**EXPENDITURE BY TYPE**  
\$44.5 (in millions)



**DEPARTMENT REVENUE**  
\$17.0 (in millions)



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

## AUTONATION FORD DEALERSHIP COMMERCIAL FIRE

A three alarm commercial structure fire destroyed the AutoNation Ford dealership on the 400 block of 116th Ave NE. At 2:51 a.m. on April 25th, units from the Bellevue Fire Department were dispatched to a fully involved large commercial car dealership with heavy flames from all sides of the structure including the roof. Additionally, vehicles in close proximity to the building were catching fire adding to the fire loss. Bellevue Firefighters established multiple exterior fire streams to prevent the massive fire from spreading to adjacent structures.

The City of Bellevue Water Department assisted operations with the increasing of water capacity and pressure due to the use of seven separate hydrants running at full capacity. Staff members from the Emergency Operations Center provided support with resources and long term incident planning and logistics.

Fire companies from Bellevue, Mercer Island, Redmond, Kirkland and Eastside Fire and Rescue assisted in suppression operations. Support units from the American Red Cross and Seattle Fire Buffs provided crew support during the long operational periods.

Fire Investigators worked for five consecutive days and determined the fire originated in the southwest corner of the service bay but the fire cause was undetermined.

Fortunately there were no firefighter or civilian injuries.



### Notable Statistics

- Approximately \$20 million fire loss (largest in BFD's history)
- 28 fire department apparatus and 67 firefighters on scene
- 10,000 GPM of water was utilized





BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
BELLEVUE WASHINGTON

